

Amendments to the Specification:

On page 4, please amend the paragraph starting on line 29 as follows:

- The VEGF variants according to the invention may also have a signal sequence. The signal sequence may be connected N-terminally to the amino acid chain of the VEGF variant and have the sequence

Met Asn Phe Leu Leu Ser Trp Val His Trp Ser Leu Ala Leu
Leu Leu Tyr Leu His His Ala Lys Trp Ser Gln Ala. (SEQ ID No. ~~NO~~:3) –

On page 6, please amend the paragraph starting on line 6 as follows:

- Four mutants were produced by site-directed mutagenesis by carrying out targeted amino acid replacements at Arg₁₁₀ and Ala₁₁₁. The cDNA which codes for human VEGF₁₆₅ was cloned into the SV40 replication expression vector pcDNA 3.1 (from Invitrogen, De Schelp, NL) using the BamHI and EcoRI cleavage sites in the cloning site. The Gene Editor™ system from Promega (Mannheim) was used for the site-directed in vitro mutagenesis. This system is based on annealing of oligonucleotides which harbour the appropriate mutation onto the initial sequence. The initial sequence of VEGF₁₆₅ in the region of the mutations is:

106 107 108 109 110 111 112 113

GA CCA AAG AAA GAT AGA GCA AGA CAA G (SEQ ID No. ~~NO~~:4)

Pro Lys Lys Asp Arg Ala Arg Gln (SEQ ID No. ~~NO~~:5) --

On page 6, please amend the paragraph starting on line 21 as follows:

- *Mutation 1: Mut_{Ala}:*

GA CCA AAG AAA GAT GCC GCA AGA CAA G (SEQ ID No. ~~NO~~:6)

Pro Lys Lys Asp Ala Ala Arg Gln (SEQ ID No. ~~NO~~:7)

On page 6, please amend the paragraph starting on line 25 as follows:

-- Mutation 2: Mut_{Gln}:

GA CCA AAG AAA GAT CAG GCA AGA CAA G (SEQ ID No. NO:8)

Pro Lys Lys Asp *Gln* Ala Arg Gln (SEQ ID No. NO:9) --

On page 6, please amend the paragraph starting on line 29 as follows:

-- Mutation 3: Mut_{Pro}:

GA CCA AAG AAA GAT AGG CCA AGA CAA G (SEQ ID No. NO:10)

Pro Lys Lys Asp Arg *Pro* Arg Gln (SEQ ID No. NO:11) --

On page 7, please amend the paragraph starting on line 2 as follows:

-- Mutation 4: Mut_{Lys-Pro}:

GA CCA AAG AAA GAT AAG CCA AGA CAA G (SEQ ID No. NO:12)

Pro Lys Lys Asp *Lys Pro* Arg Gln (SEQ ID No. NO:13) --

On page 7, please amend the paragraph starting on line 18 as follows:

-- VEGF₁₆₅ wild type: -Asp₁₀₉Arg₁₁₀Ala₁₁₁Arg₁₁₂- (SEQ ID No. NO:14)

Mut_{Gln}: -Asp₁₀₉Gln₁₁₀Ala₁₁₁Arg₁₁₂- (SEQ ID No. NO:15)

Mut_{Ala}: -Asp₁₀₉Ala₁₁₀Ala₁₁₁Arg₁₁₂- (SEQ ID No. NO:16)

Mut_{Pro}: -Asp₁₀₉Arg₁₁₀Pro₁₁₁Arg₁₁₂- (SEQ ID No. NO:17)

Mut_{Lys-Pro}: -Asp₁₀₉Lys₁₁₀Pro₁₁₁Arg₁₁₂- (SEQ ID No. NO:18) --